(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Governments policy of strengthening cooperation, mutual understanding and friendly relations with various countries on the basis of India's traditional values and beliefs, is well known.

Government is taking steps to further improve our freindly relations and strengthen cooperation with all our neighbours.

Initiatives have been taken to implement this policy. The first foreign delegation received by Government was headed by the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, and discussions were held in a spirit of trust and cooperation. An invitation has been extended to the Minister of Foreign affairs of Nepal and he is likely to visit India soon.

Transfer of Governors

229. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to transfer the Governors of some of the States; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) and (b) As a matter of convention and because of their constitutional position subjects relating to the appointment, transfer, removal, resignation and conduct etc. of Governors are confidential in nature and are not discussed.

Steps to improve the National Highways

230. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to take speedy steps to improve national high ways in the country ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The improvement of the National Highways is a continuous process and is undertaken as an activity of high priority and implemented through the Annual and 5 Year Plans. An expenditure of Rs. 1489 crores for National Highways is anticipated during the 7th Five Year Plan which is about 136 per cent more than during the Sixth Plan. The Working Group on the Roads has recommended a substantial augmentation of plan allocations during the 8th Plan— 5100 km of National Highways are recommended for four laning and 6000 km for widening and strengthening to two lanes. Preliminary discussions have also been held with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for obtaining assistance for the development of National Highways.

इलाहाबाद में यमुना पर रेल पुल की निर्माण योजना

231. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इलाहाबाद यमुना पर रेल पुल की निर्माण योजना की प्रगति क्या है और निर्माण कार्य शुरू करने में क्या रुकावटें हैं और